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Question1: Farm programs that we have today are good for the government. When our crop prices go up our Counter Cyclical payments are lost. The problem is that our price for our crops dosen't increase enough to pay the bills. Our fuel, fertilizer, seed, tec-fees,insurance and cost of our equipment has gone so much that we can't make a profit. Our children want to come home to farm but they don't want to have the sleepless nights that their parents have trying to make ends meet. Our children can not buy the equipment and cattle to farm or ranch let alone buy land or compete in the rental game. Our land prices haven't gone up very much here in Oklahoma because people operating the land know there isn't a profit in farming. Even if a parent helps a young person get into farming his or her chances of failing are great.

I have told my congressman to send us their aids and let us show them what is like in Rural America why our towns and schools are closing down. There are fewer and fewer people here in rural Oklahoma that want or can be farmers. My son is a graduate of Oklahoma State University and has come home to farm and maybe someday take my place, but with farm fuels at \$2.00 a gallon pickup fuels at \$2.44 per gallon and the price of wheat at \$3.05 per bushel how can they afford to farm it is almost more than I can stand myself. Our cotton seed is almost \$200.00 per bag and our cotton is not any better price than it was 20 years ago.

Agriculture is the hub of America and we are running out of grease. Question2: We found what supply and demand could do for the cattle market with out exports. We have fed the people of these United States and our prices have remained high even importing meat from Canada at a higher rate this year than before the first BSE in Canada. Most of the men and women running this country does not have a clue what goes on in agriculture all they are concerned about is having cheap food on their table. We have over the past 40 plus years taught the world how to grow their own food and have shot ourselves in the foot. Our trade teams can not compete with trade rep. from other countries because they lack the knowledge of agriculture. Our trade people need to know what we produce and how we do it. Our elected officals need to sit at our dinner tables one on one and listen to people that know. You ask if it is so bad why we don't get out of farming or ranching, well it is because we can't afford to.

Question3: Our farm prices are stabilized just enough to cut us out of governement money and it holds our farm income down.

Our crop insurance dosen't cover the cost of break even, and if it did we couldn't afford it. Here in Oklahoma we were in a drought for almost 5 years our proven yields have dropped just like they have in other states.

The farm support system hasn't encouraged us to get larger, we have gotton larger because our neighbors couldn't afford to stay in business or they were at the age that they couldn't farm because of health. A producers benefits has gotton larger but that dosen't mean that they any better off. It still cost them to plant a crop and harvest it. In all

the cases we have to grow larger in order to try offset the cost of our equipment because we can't pay for it with the price we receive for our crops.

Distribution of assistance should go to the person that is farming the land. They are the ones that are taking the risk. I would rather we didn't have to receive a dime of assistance but we can't afford to farm without it.

Question4: In today's times there could be more lands put into the conservation programs because of the age of most of the producers. Better grasses that were maybe native to their area be planted instead of clump grasses. We still have ground washing away on farms planted to recommended grasses because they do not cover the ground.

With a better controlled conservation program we would have a better environment. We have people in Washington telling us what to do that don't have a clue themselves.

Question5: Our rural economy started going down hill 30 plus years ago. Until we can figure out how to pass on the cost of farming to the consumer we are going to continue to slide. We have lost so much of Downtown America that there is nothing to keep our families here. Technologies? What can you do with a ghost town? That is what rural America is becoming. I farm today what 30 plus families used to live on and I am having a hard time. The whole story is we can't stay in business in 2005 with 60's prices for our crops and cost of technology of today we need to be able to pass on the cost of production and were not able to.

Question6: The energy bill passed in the last few days might be saving light and I say might.

Ethanol here in the Southwestern part of Oklahoma might give us chance to produce a crop that we couldn't grow before because we did not have a market. We can only grow a few crops here because of a place to market it and water. But an ethanol plant might give us that chance. Not only would we be able to grow maybe another crop but cattle feeding in our area might be an option.